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(52) UK CL (Edition S )

B6E ECEC EDX

(56) Documents Cited

DE 019900582 A1 DE 004431140 A1 DE 001786225 A  
US 5887900 A US 4109348 A US 3612709 A

(58) Field of Search

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INT CL<sup>7</sup> B42F 3/00 3/02 11/00 13/12 13/14 13/40  
Online:EPODOC,JAPIO,WPI

(54) Abstract Title

Document binder clip to group together and sub-divide sheets in a ring binder

(57) A clip fastens documents 5 together and has holes 7 which allow it to be mounted in a ring binder (fig 2). A push-fit pin 3 and socket 4 arrangement can be provided to engage with holes 6 in the sheets 5. The clip can protect and strengthen the holes 6 in the sheets 5 and can provide rigidity to the back of the document 5. The clip is provided in a number of embodiments which include: a clip comprising a single part 10 divided by an integral hinge 11; identical and reversible parts (fig 4); a clip including a descriptive label (12, fig 5); a clip with a pen or pencil holder (13, fig 6); and, a clip with a separation aid (15, fig 7).

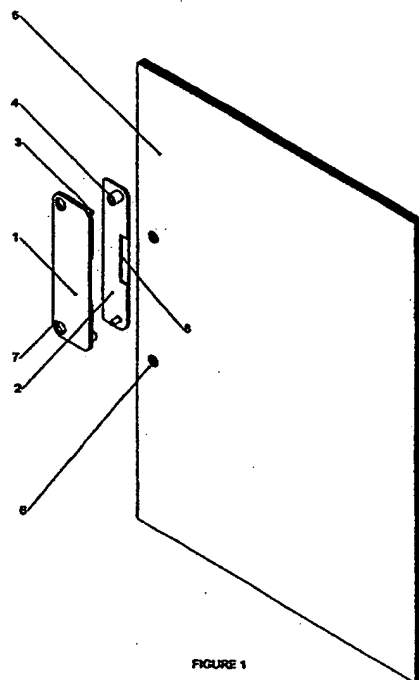


FIGURE 1

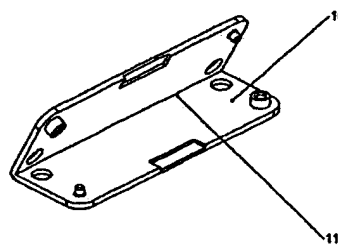


FIGURE 3

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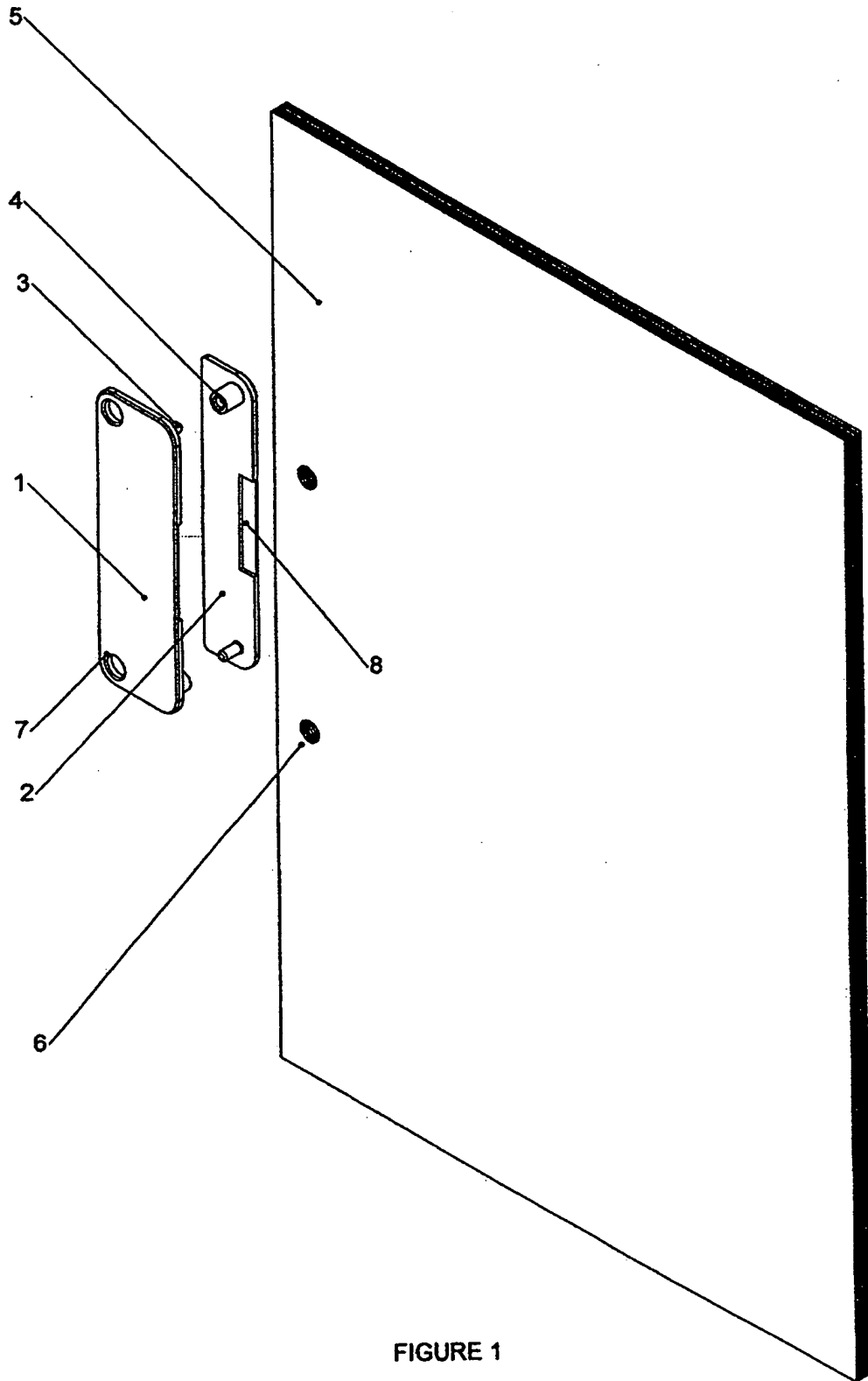


FIGURE 1

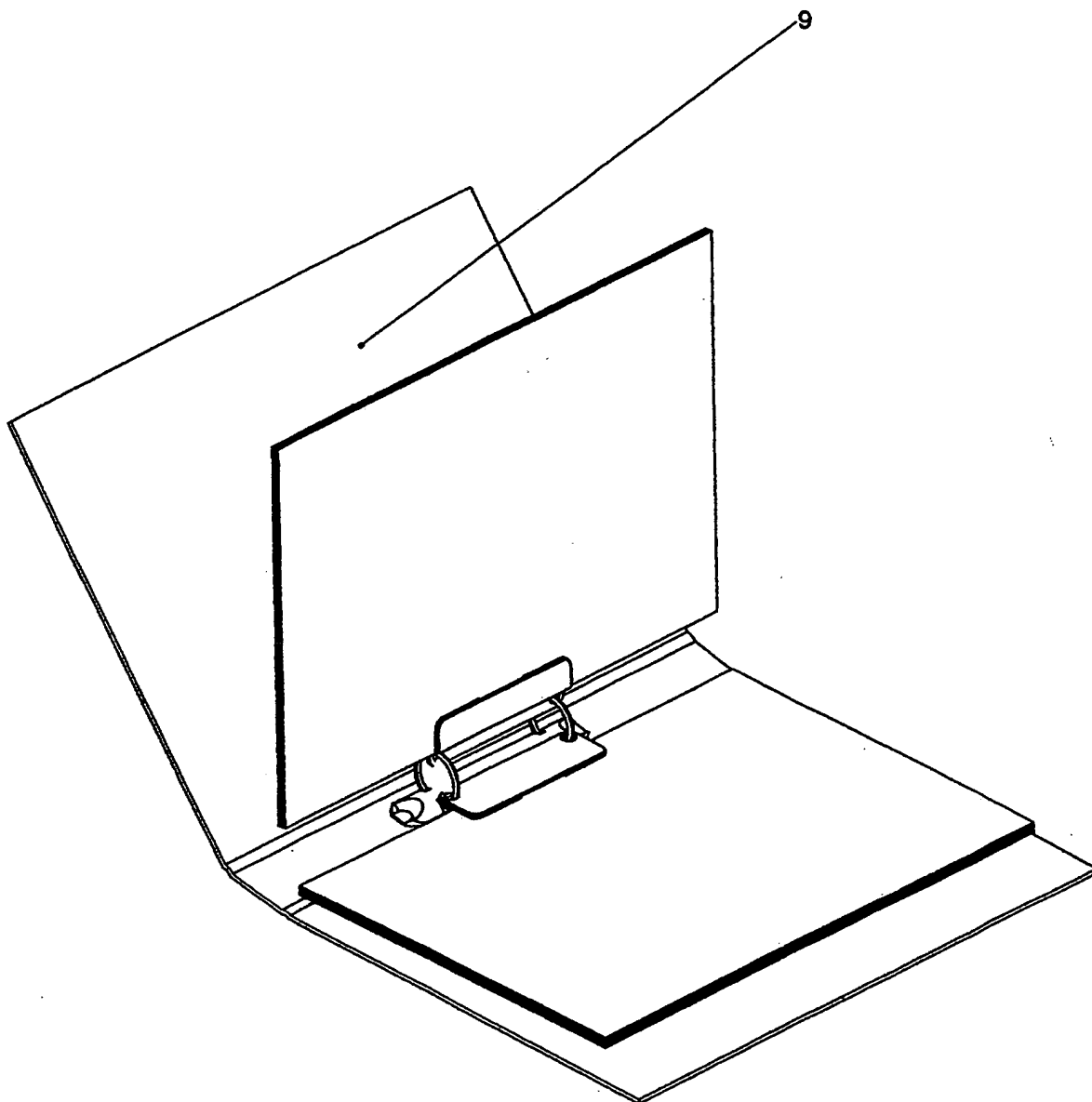


FIGURE 2

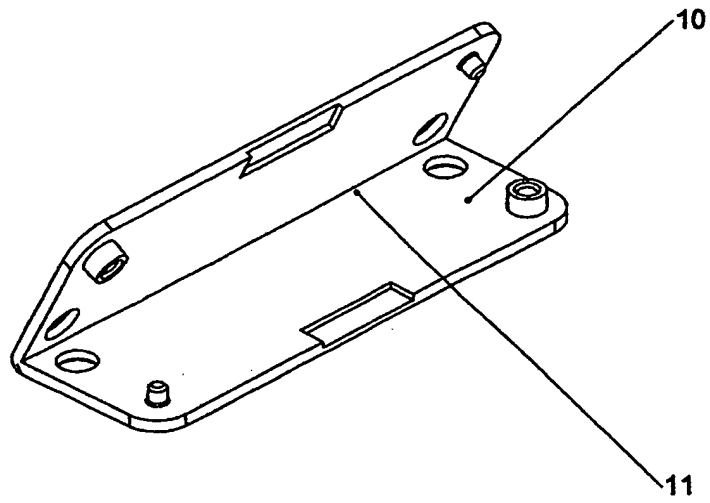


FIGURE 3

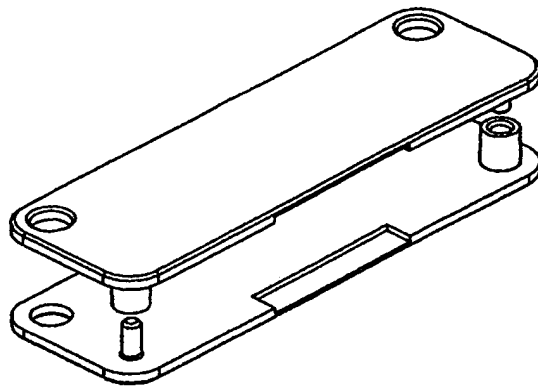


FIGURE 4

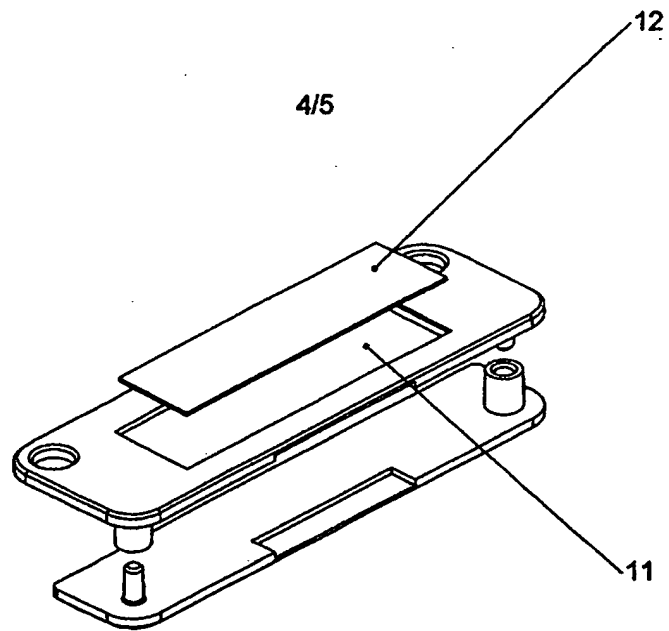


FIGURE 5

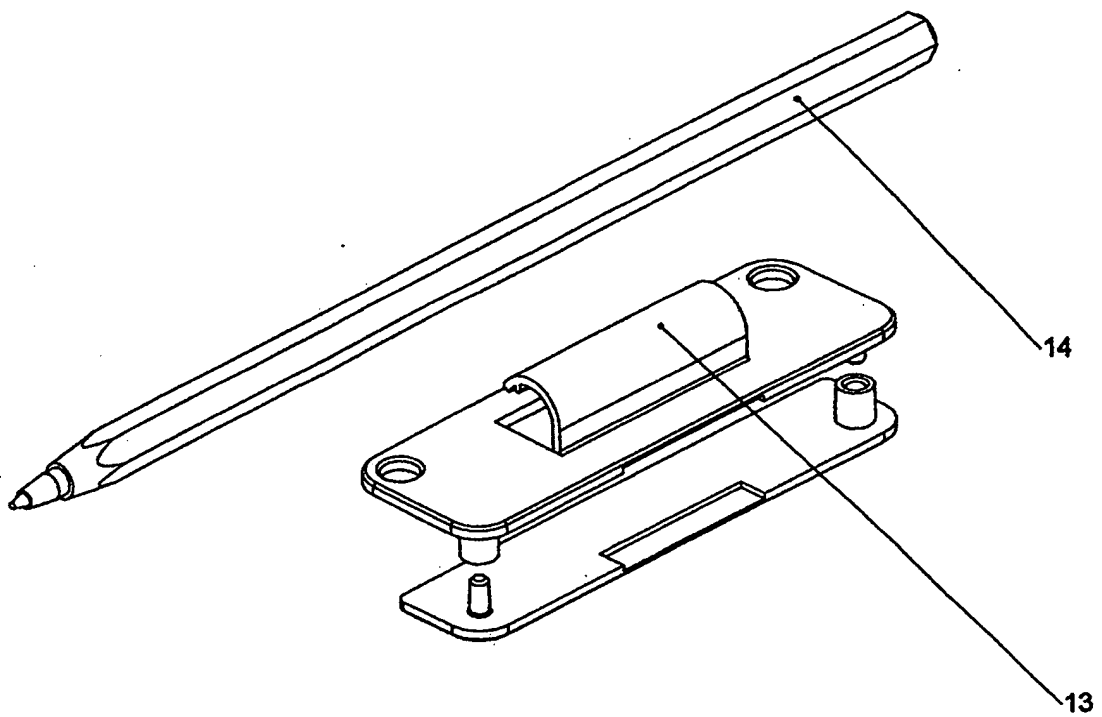


FIGURE 6

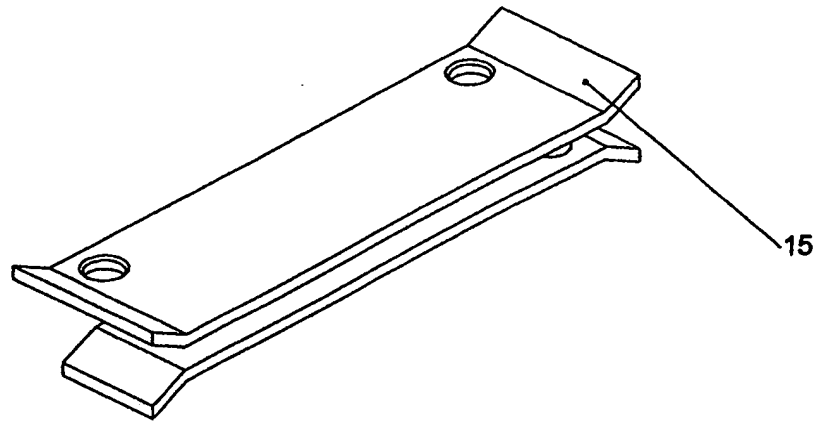


FIGURE 7

*This invention relates to a document clip system.*

*Existing paper connection devices such as staples make separating sheets for individual access ie for faxing/photocopying difficult once stapled together while paper clips are non-permanent and paper is easily loosened. Both are awkward to use once filed ie in a ring binder, neither protect the punched holes (tend to rip easily) and both do not keep edges rigid. An alternative solution is to place documents into a clear sleeve which has pre-punched holes on one edge which can be placed into a ring binder. However to access the document it must be removed from the sleeve separating the sheets once again.*

*According to the present invention there is provided a clip that connects a number of loose sheets to create a document clip system. The clip is easily releasable and could have a variety of methods to connect the loose sheets into a document. The method we have adopted for the purpose of this application consists of a pin and hole push-fit of parts to connect the clip via pre-punched holes. Holes in the clip then allow filing/archiving in a ring binder or similar storage product to create an internal sub-divided document system. The clip can then support the punched holes, protect the document edge and stop paper from being accidentally ripped out.*

*A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which :*

*FIG 1 is perspective view of a typical document clip with sheets ;*

*FIG 2 is a perspective view of a complete assembly with standard ring file ;*

*FIG 3 is a perspective view of an alternative single part hinging document clip ;*

*FIG 4 is an identical/reversible document clip ;*

*FIG 5 illustrates a feature to locate a descriptive label ;*

*FIG 6 illustrates a feature to store a writing instrument ;*

*FIG 7 illustrates an alternative feature to aid releasing parts;*

*Referring to the drawings a typical document clip is shown in FIG 1 and consists of a top plate 1 and clamping plate 2 each with a corresponding pin 3 and hole 4 which push-fit together thus connecting loose sheets 5 via pre-punched holes 6 to create a document. Holes 7 can then be used to store the document clip in a typical filing product 9. To release the parts to access individual sheets a feature 8 is used.*

*Figure 2 illustrates a typical assembly with document clip located within a typical filing product 9.*

*Figure 3 illustrates an alternative single part document clip 10 with an integral hinge 11.*

*Figure 4 illustrates an identical/reversible document clip.*

*Figure 5 illustrates a feature 11 to locate a descriptive label 12 to differentiate documents when in a storage configuration.*

*Figure 6 illustrates a feature 13 to store a writing instrument 14 ;*

*Figure 7 illustrates an alternative feature 15 to aid releasing parts.*

*The document clip could be manufactured in a variety of colours to guide the user to relevant coded sub-divided documents. Accordingly, the document clip includes a configuration that is simple and cost-effective to manufacture in high volume and can include a variety of sizes and shape variations. The length of the clip can also increase to provide extra support along the document edge.*



**Claims**

1      *A releasable document clip which connects a number of individual sheets. Holes in the clip then allow filing in a typical storage product thus creating an internal sub-divided and easy access document system.*

2      *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1 which protects and strengthens pre-punched holes in the connected sheet material and also provides rigidity along the joined edge.*

3      *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 comprising of a single part with an integral hinge.*

4      *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 comprising of 2 identical and reversible parts that join through pre-punched holes to create a document clip*

5      *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 wherein a feature is provided to store a writing instrument.*

6      *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 wherein a feature is provided to store a descriptive label. The clip could also be colour coded to differentiate documents when filed in a storage product.*

7      *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 where the clip could vary in depth to accept different document thickness*

8      *A document clip substantially as described herein with reference to figures 1- 7 of the accompanying drawing.*



Application No: GB 9926367.5  
Claims searched: 1-8

4  
Examiner: Brendan Churchill  
Date of search: 22 May 2000

## Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.R): B6E (ECEC, ECF, ECX, EDX)

Int CI (Ed.7): B42F (3/00, 3/02, 11/00, 13/12, 13/14, 13/40)

Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	DE 19900582 A1 (HOFFMANN) WPI Abstract Accession No. 1999-459926/39 and see particularly figures 78-80	1,7
X	DE 4431140 A1 (BLOCK) See figure 4 and WPI Abstract Accession No. 1997-021890/03	1
X	DE 1786225 (ANGERPOINTNER) See figure 1	1
X	US 5887900 (RAYMOND) Column 2 lines 24-56	1
X	US 4109348 (PRODUNIK) Whole document	1
A	US 3612709 (KING JIM) See posts 4 and sockets 5 on cover plate 1	-

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.